




U.S. Embassy Islamabad
Contracting Activity

To: Offerors

From: Latrecia A. Hall - Contracting Officer 

Date: November 24, 2023

Subject: Answers to the Questions asked by different Offerors for "Primary DIN 200 Mbps and Secondary DIN 40 Mbps Internet Services for U.S. Consulate, Peshawar Pakistan" during and after pre-proposal conference held on November 15, 2023 RFQ#19PK3324Q6089 and RFQ#19PK3324Q6090

Q-1) Section-1 SOW, under both RFQ's, Primary 200Mbps & Secondary 40Mbps links will be backup of each other, or will be two independent circuits?

Ans) These are two independent circuits.

Q-2) Section-1 SOW, under both RFQ's, Both 200Mbps & 40Mbps links are to be delivered via separate last miles, or common last miles with separate handoff?

Ans) Both circuits are to be delivered via separate last miles. There are two demarcation location (cabinets) at east and west side of the consulate. Each circuit should have redundancy and be terminated at both east and west sides.

Q.3): Do we need to submit one technical and two financial proposals Separately?

Ans.): Yes. One technical proposal for both 200 and 40 MBPS are acceptable, with two separate financial proposals according to both RFQs.

Q.4): Section-1 SOW, under both RFQ's, what is the requirement of Network topology map?

Ans.): ISP is responsible to provide lost mile diagram between their inter traffic hub and U.S consulate.

Q.5): Section-1 SOW, under both RFQ's Can same fiber optics be used for both Primary and Secondary?

Ans.): These are two separate circuits and should not be treated as alternates. Each circuit should have redundancy as discussed during the site survey from east and west entrances of US consulate. They should also have separate /28 IP Pool

Q.6): Section-1 SOW, under both RFQ's, what is the estimated outage downtime?

Ans.): According to Section 1 SOW, of both RFQs, That period when the circuit becomes non-operational or unusable for communication or transfer of data or failures to meet the minimum acceptance standards. The maximum cumulative Annual downtime that shall be acceptable for corrective or preventative maintenance is 26.28 hours (8760 x .3%). The maximum cumulative Monthly downtime

that shall be acceptable for corrective or preventative maintenance shall be .3% of the total available hours for the month (example: $31 \times 24 = 744 \times .3\% = 2.23$ hours).

Q.7): Section-1 SOW, under both the RFQs, Is it possible to submit bid in USD instead of PKR?

Ans.7): The contract asks for the prices in USD for both local and offshore, however local offerors shall be paid in local currency Pakistani Rupees (PKR) @ prevailing exchange rate determined by U.S. Government USD to PKR on the day of payment.

Q.8): Section-1 SOW, under both the RFQs, Quote should be inclusive of exclusive of taxes?

Ans.): Please Don't include any type of income tax as U.S Embassy is exempted. However, in GST case, upon provision of proforma invoice from the offeror, sales tax exemption certificate will be applied through Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) by U.S. Embassy, Islamabad.

Q.9):): Section-1 SOW, under both the RFQs, can we provide a designated hotline no to deal with the down time?

Ans.): According to our requirement, we would like to have a designated POC for 24/7, whom we can contact any time in case of urgency.